Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An electronic document information expansion apparatus for expanding information on an electronic document comprising:

an input section inputting the electronic document;

an information analysis section <u>analyzing and dividing said input electronic document into a plurality of information units, and</u> extracting <u>from said input electronic document, for each said information unit,</u> location information ~~on~~ <u>relating to</u> data included in ~~an~~ <u>said information unit</u> ~~input electronic document from the electronic document, the extracted location information~~ indicating a location of an information source external to the input electronic document;

an external data acquisition section acquiring external data <u>for each said information unit from said information source</u> that can be added to the electronic document based on the extracted location information<u>, and determining whether the external data acquired from said information source for each said information unit relates to said data included in said information unit</u>;

an information addition section generating ~~addition~~ <u>additional</u> data to be added to said electronic document using the acquired external data <u>if said relation is found</u>; and

a structured data generation section combining the ~~addition~~ data generated by said information addition section with said electronic document, and generating structured data with the information on the electronic document expanded.

Claim 2. (*Canceled*)

Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein <u>the functions of</u> said external data acquisition section <u>and said information addition section are recursively repeated for additional external data located from</u>

additional location information ~~acquires the external data that can be reached by tracking the location information~~ up to preset hierarchies ~~from a location indicated by the location information on the data included in each of the information units~~.

Claim 4. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said external data acquisition section acquires ~~the~~ said external data for each said information unit after determining whether ~~the~~ said external data is sufficiently similar to said data included in said information unit ~~one of the electronic document as an information expansion target and a content of each of the information units~~.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said sufficient similarity comprises determining whether a similarity between said external data for each said information unit and said data included in said information unit exceeds a certain threshold ~~external data acquisition section acquires the external data only when a similarity exceeds a certain threshold in determining whether the external data is similar to one of the electronic document as the information expansion target and the content of each of the information units~~.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said sufficient similarity comprises determining whether a highest level of similarity exists between said external data for each said information unit and said data included in said information unit exceeds a certain threshold ~~external data acquisition section acquires the external data having a highest similarity to one of the electronic document as the information expansion target and the content of each of the information unit in determining whether the external data is similar to one of the electronic document as the information expansion target and the content of each of the information units~~.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said external data acquisition section conducts a preprocessing operation for removing predetermined control characters ~~other than a hyperlink, to the external data,~~

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in determining whether <u>such sufficient similarity exists</u> ~~the external data is similar to one of the electronic document as the information expansion target and the content of each of the information units~~.

Claim 8. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said external data acquisition section conducts a preprocessing <u>operation</u> for extracting a keyword <u>relating to said</u> ~~, to the~~ external data ~~, in~~ <u>when</u> determining whether <u>such sufficient similarity exists</u> ~~the external data is similar to one of the electronic document as the information expansion target and the content of each of the information units~~.

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ <u>1</u>, wherein said information addition section extracts a keyword from the external data acquired by said external data acquisition section.

Claim 10. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said structured data generation section combines a keyword extracted from a <u>said data</u> ~~content~~ of each of the information units with the keyword extracted from said external data, and generates <u>said</u> structured data <u>therefrom</u>.

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said structured data generation section generates <u>said</u> structured data while discriminating said ~~a~~ keyword extracted from a <u>said data</u> ~~content~~ of each of the information units from ~~the~~ <u>said</u> keyword extracted from said external data.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ <u>2</u>, wherein said electronic document is an e-mail document.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) An electronic document information expansion method for expanding information on an electronic document, the method comprising:

an information analysis step of <u>analyzing and dividing said input electronic document into a</u>

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plurality of information units, and extracting from said input electronic document, for each said information unit, location information ~~on~~ relating to data included in ~~an~~ said information unit ~~input~~ ~~electronic document from the electronic document, the extracted location information~~ indicating a location of an information source external to the input electronic document;

an external data acquisition step of acquiring external data for each said information unit from said information source that can be added to the electronic document based on the extracted location information, and determining whether the external data acquired from said information source for each said information unit relates to said data included in said information unit;

an information addition step of generating ~~addition~~ additional data to be added to said electronic document using the acquired external data if said relation is found; and

a structured data generation step of combining the ~~addition~~ additional data generated in said information addition step with said electronic document, and generating structured data with the information on the electronic document expanded.

Claim 14. (*Canceled*)

Claim 15. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion method according to claim ~~14~~ 13, wherein ~~in~~ said external data acquisition step and said information addition step are recursively repeated for additional external data located from additional location information ~~, the external data that can be reached by tracking the location information~~ up to preset hierarchies ~~is~~ ~~acquired from a location indicated by the location information on the data included in each of the~~ ~~information units~~.

Claim 16. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion method according to claim ~~14~~ 13, wherein in said external data acquisition step, ~~the~~ said external data for each said information unit is acquired after determining whether ~~the~~ said external data is sufficiently similar to said data included in said information unit ~~one of the electronic document as an~~ ~~information expansion target and a content of each of the information units~~.

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Claim 17. (*Original*) The electronic document information expansion method according to claim 13, wherein said electronic document is an e-mail document.

Claim 18. (*Original*) An electronic document information expansion program in which the steps of the electronic document information expansion method according to claim 13 are described in codes that can be processed by a computer.

Claim 19. (*Original*) A recording medium recording the electronic document information expansion program according to claim 18.

Claim 20. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the extracted location information indicating a location of an information source external to the input electronic document is uniform resource locator (URL) ~~URL~~ information.

Claim 21. (*Currently Amended*) The electronic document information expansion method according to claim 13, wherein the extracted location information indicating a location of an information source external to the input electronic document is uniform resource locator (URL) ~~URL~~ information.

Claim 22. (*New*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information unit comprises said location information and document text.

Claim 23. (*New*) The electronic document information expansion apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said electronic document comprises a format accessible on the World Wide Web, and said location information comprises information pertaining to a location on the World Wide Web.

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